



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

1/24/07

Dear Water Sector Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Selected Facility

SUBJECT: Water Security Tabletop Exercise

Your facility has been selected to perform a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) as part of the water sector security grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Summary

Patriot Services Inc. has been selected as the contractor to coordinate and perform and 30 tabletop exercises (TTXs) for water sector (drinking water and wastewater) facilities for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) over the next year. Stephen Potter, Patriot Services Inc., will be the project manager. Mr. Potter's e-mail address is spotter@patriot-services.com and his telephone number is 248-229-7823. Patriot Services Inc. web site is <http://www.patriot-services.com>.

Background/Problem Statement

Community and non-community public water systems and wastewater systems have historically developed and maintained emergency contingency plans (CPs) that were responsive to system outages due to weather-related incidents and acts of vandalism. As a result of the terrorists' attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, and subsequent global events, water and wastewater systems need to consider malevolent acts of terrorism as potential problems that the utilities may encounter and should incorporate such acts into emergency CPs. To effectively create and achieve a successful emergency CP, TTXs are a method of incorporating malevolent acts of terrorism into local responsiveness planning.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive No. 8 entitled, National Preparedness, signed December 13, 2003, indicates that local departments of public works, e.g., public water and sewage systems, are now a part of the community first responders network. This contract, which is funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) water sector security grant, will allow Patriot Services Inc. to work with the DEQ to create an effective emergency plan for water systems, wastewater systems, and public works by incorporating potential terrorism acts into their responsiveness planning and training.

Michigan has approximately 1,500 public water systems and approximately 500 public wastewater systems. Utility CPs and Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) need to be used on routine basis, e.g., annually, in order for them to be current and useful. TTXs are useful in updating and maintaining appropriate responsiveness to the public utility in the event of a malevolent act.

Objective

The objective of the exercise is to bring key public water and wastewater personnel together, along with key public safety (police and fire department) officials, at key water and wastewater treatment systems, along with DEQ personnel to use and evaluate the facilities' existing emergency response plan/contingency plan for possible revisions. Policies and procedures will be reviewed and the facilities' personnel and public safety officials will gain experience in responding to exercise scenarios and be more comfortable working together in the event of a real incident.

Public water and wastewater officials need to be a part of the community police, fire, and hospital emergency response activities associated with the local emergency planning.

In preparation for a TTX, it is suggested that you:

1. Identify a point of contact for your facility for the exercise.
2. Identify stakeholders that you may want to invite to participate in the exercise. Stakeholders may include representatives from public safety (e.g., police and fire), elected officials (e.g., city council members, city manager, and mayor), public health, wastewater, and county emergency management organizations – local emergency planning coordinators (LEPCs).
3. Plan on having your CP/ERP available for the exercise.
4. Determine if a tour of the facility is planned.

We appreciate your support of the water sector security efforts and are hopeful that, on a no-fault basis, you are able to benefit from participating in these half-day tabletop exercises.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Patriot Services Inc. or me at 517-373-8566 or babcockr@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Babcock
Security and Emergency Response Coordinator
Lansing Operations Division
Water Bureau

cc: James Cleland, MDEQ
District Supervisors, Water Bureau, MDEQ
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